

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7800

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHAGSOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PDEV PROP PFOR UG KE US

SUBJECT: AMIN CLAIMS LARGE PARTS OF KENYA AND SUDAN

1. UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN, IN FEB 15 REMARKS
BROADCAST OVER RADIO UGANDA AND MONITORED IN NAIROBI,
REPORTEDLY LAID CLAIM TO LARGE AREAS OF KENYA AND SUDAN.
ACCORDING KENYAN PRESS, WHICH ACCORDED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE
TO AMIN'S REMARKS, CLAIM BASED ON TERRITORIAL TRANSFERS
BY BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATORS EARLY IN CENTURY.
AREA OF KENYA WHICH AMIN ALLEGED IS HISTORICALLY A PART
OF UGANDA STRETCHES FROM PRESENT BORDER TO WITHIN 20 MILES
OF NAIROBI AND ENCOMPASSES LARGE PARTS OF KENYA'S MOST FERTILE
LAND. AMIN REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD PUBLISH MAP SHOWING
"TRUE BOUNDARIES" OF UGANDA.

2. PARADOXICALLY, AMIN SAID THAT WHILE HIS OBJECTIVE
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IS TO "LIBERATE ALL UGANDAN TERRITORY", HE WOULD NOT

REPEAT NOT GO TO WAR. IN STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT KENYA, AMIN ALSO REVIVED AN OLD THREAT THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO WAR AGAINST NEIGHBORING STATES IF UGANDA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA WERE THREATENED.

3. KENYAN NEWSPAPERS, IN FEB 17 EDITORIAL COMMENT, REACTED STRONGLY TO AMIN'S CLAIM. DAILY NATION SAID AMIN'S STATEMENTS SHOW HE INTENDS TO MAKE "ONE KIND OF WAR OR ANOTHER" ON KENYA, MOST LIKELY "WORKING IN COLLUSION WITH DISCONTENTED AND DISILLUSIONED PEOPLE INSIDE KENYA". THE STANDARD CALLS AMIN'S CLAIMS "LAUGHABLE IN THE EXTREME." PAPER ADDS THAT "KENYA HAS RESOLUTELY RESISTED ALL PRESSURES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO CEDE ONE IOTA OF HER SOIL OTHER THAN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN AWAY IN THE COLONIAL ERA."

4. COMMENT: REVIVAL OF AMIN'S TERRITORIAL CLAIM AGAINST WESTERN KENYA, IN WAKE OF RECENTLY PUBLICIZED SOMALI CLAIM TO LARGE PART OF NORTHEASTERN KENYA (NAIROBI 1275, NOTAL), CERTAIN TO HEIGHTEN FURTHER KENYAN SECURITY CONCERNS.

DECON 1/1/77.
MARSHALL

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